Foodgrains affected by Green Leaf Hoppers

*177. SHRI C. HARIDAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rice crop has been affected badly by Green Leaf Hoppers;

(b) if so, which are the areas where the crop has been affected and the quantity of foodgrains lost on that account; and

(c) whether Government have taken measures including research work to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) Government are aware that incidence of Green Leaf Hoppers occurred on rice crop during Kharif season in certain parts of the country. Incidence of Green Leaf Hoppers on rice crop was detected by joint surveillance and monitoring teams of the Central and State Governments in isolated pockets of some districts of Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka. The intensity of pest infestation remained generally low. No significant damage has been reported to the crops.

(c) The Government have taken the following measures to contain this pest:

(i) Regular pest surveillance and monitoring are carried out to forewarn the farmers about pest development.

(ii) Timely pest control campaigns with the use of prescribed pesticides which can achieve a mortality rate of minimum of 85 per cent are organised by State Governments and farmers.

(iii) Adequate and timely availability of pesticides is arranged.

(iv) Financial assistance to the farmers are made available under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Control and Eradication of Pests and Diseases of Agricultural Importance including Weed Control in Endemic Areas.

(v) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and various Agricultural Universities are engaged in research work to evolve resistant varieties and other non-chemical and ecologically safer methods for control of pests and diseases of rice.

Weeding out of inefficient and corrupt officers

*178. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has any proposal to weed out inefficient and corrupt officers, if so, what are the names of the officers removed so far and what is the number of the officers against whom action is proposed to be taken; and

(b) what is the number of vigilance enquiries conducted during the last two years against the officers and the details of action taken against them in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The conduct and performance of officials working in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting are reviewed from time to time and suitable action, including pre-mature retire-

ment, is taken against those found to be inefficient and/or corrupt under the provisions of various rules. During 1985, the cases of 462 officials have so far been reviewed under FR 56(J) out of which the following six officials have been pre-maturely retired :—

(1) Shri H. G. Alagh, Superintending Engineer, CCW, All India Radio, New Delhi.

(2) Shri J. N. Gupta, FAR and CAO, DAVP, New Delhi.

(3) Shri V. N. Amalrap. Asstt. Distribution Officer, DAVP, Madras.

(4) Shri P. D. Achari, Administrative Officer, All India Radio, Panaji.

(5) Shri R. N. Prasad, Administrative Officer, All India Radio,

(6) Shri B. C. Mohanty, Administrative Officer, DFP, Raipur.

2. The number of officials against whom action can be taken in future depends on the result of the review of their conduct and performance.

Dangerous pesticides

@@*179. SHRI VITHALBHAI MOTIRAM PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain pesticides are injurious to health;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a demand to put a ban on certain pesticides;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Committee of Members of Parliament was appointed to look into this matter and report to Government; and

(d) if so, what action Government propose to take to ban such pesticides which are injurious to health?

@@Previously Starred Question 119, transferred from the 25th November, 1985.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir, if not used judiciously as per the recommended dosages and guidelines/ instructions.

(b) Such a demand has been put forth in some of press reports, articles etc, which have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) The Ministry is not aware of any Committee of The Parliament set up to go into the matter.

(d) The Ministry of Agriculture has constituted a high level Expert Committee to review the use of pesticides which have been banned or restricted in other countries. Action to ban any pesticides will be taken after considering the report of the said Committee, when received, and after taking into account all relavant factors.

Water resources available in the country

*180. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the total water resources available in the country in the form of underground water and water from the monsoon;

(b) what is the plan to utilise water resources in agriculture and for drinking purposes during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any survey regarding underground water storage in this country has been conducted; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is the utilisation plan of the same?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) About 60 million hectare metres from the presently estimated replenishable resources of groun water and 400 million hecctare meter from precipitation annually.